

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 206896
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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE: CWSCHALLER
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C - MR. WOLF
EUR/PP - MR. SEIDNER

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O 301553Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206896

E.O. 11652: ADS, 8/31/77

TAGS:PFOR, PDIP, UK, EI, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT TO BE
ISSUED AT 2:30PM WASHINGTON TIME AUGUST 30. COPIES
GIVEN BRIT AND IRISH EMBASSIES LATE AUGUST 29. EMBASSY
DUBLIN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE CONGEN BELFAST WITH TEXT AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, AMERICANS HAVE
RIGHTLY RECALLED THE CONTRIBUTIONS MEN AND WOMEN FROM
MANY COUNTRIES HAVE MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES. AMONG THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN
THOSE OF THE BRITISH AND IRISH PEOPLE, PROTESTANT AND
CATHOLIC ALIKE. WE HAVE CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH
BOTH PARTS OF IRELAND, AND WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

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3. IT IS NATURAL THAT AMERICANS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE CONTINUING CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN
IRELAND. WE KNOW THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE
THERE REJECT THE BOMB AND THE BULLET. THE UNITED STATES
WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS PEACEFUL MEANS FOR FINDING A
JUST SOLUTION THAT INVOLVES BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY
OF NORTHERN IRELAND, PROTECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION -A SOLUTION THAT THE PEOPLE IN NORTH IRELAND, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND CAN SUPPORT. VIOLENCE CANNOT RESOLVE NORTHERN IRELAND'S PROBLEMS; IT ONLY INCREASES THEM, AND SOLVES NOTHING.

4. WE HOPE THAT ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE WILL RENOUNCE THIS COURSE AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PEACEFUL PURSUIT OF LEGITIMATE GOALS. THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION, COOPERATION AND PEACE IS THE ONLY COURSE THAT CAN END THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND LEAD TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. I ASK ALL AMERICANS TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING, WITH FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID, ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INVOLVEMENT, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, IN THIS VIOLENCE DELAYS THE DAY WHEN THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND CAN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY, FREE FROM FEAR. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE ANY WHO VIOLATE U.S. LAWS IN THIS REGARD.

5. U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF IMPARTIALITY, AND THAT IS HOW IT WILL REMAIN. WE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE THROUGHOUT BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY. CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING THE PARTIES HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. THE ONLY PERMANENT SOLUTION WILL COME FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE. THERE ARE NO SOLUTIONS THAT OUTSIDERS CAN IMPOSE.

6. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY HAVE OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT IN THEIR QUEST FOR A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN IRELAND'S HARDWORKING PEOPLE THAT THE AREA HAS CONTINUED TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT, DESPITE THE VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY A SMALL MINORITY. THIS IS TO BE WELCOMED, SINCE INVESTMENT AND OTHER PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS WILL ASSIST IN ENSURING A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND COMBATING UNEMPLOYMENT.

7. IT IS STILL TRUE THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WOULD CONTRIBUTE IMMEASURABLY TO STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND SO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT. IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS TO SEE HOW ADDITIONAL JOB-CREATING INVESTMENT COULD BE ENCOURAGED, TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

8. I ADMIRE THE MANY TRUE FRIENDS OF NORTHERN IRELAND
IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SPEAK OUT FOR PEACE. EMOTIONS RUN
HIGH ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE EASIEST COURSE IS NOT TO
STAND UP FOR CONCILIATION. I PLACE MYSELF FIRMLY ON THE
SIDE OF THOSE WHO SEEK PEACE AND REJECT VIOLENCE IN
NORTHERN IRELAND. END TEXT. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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